

# THE Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

## GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATED



BALLOON RELEASE AT MSU BSU GROUNDBREAKING

## New MSU BSU soon to rise

Groundbreaking marks historic day on campus

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

The president of Mississippi State University (MSU) joined Jim Futral, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), and over 300 Mississippi Baptists on Oct. 7 in breaking ground for the new multi-million-dollar Baptist Student Union (BSU) facility on the Starkville campus.

"This is a great day for all of us to be here on a wonderful occasion, to be here to celebrate a new facility, a new beautiful building that will be right here on this very spot to serve the needs of this university and be a tremendous asset to this community at large but more importantly, to serve the spiritual needs of our Mississippi State students," said Mark E. Keenum, MSU president and member of First Church, Starkville.

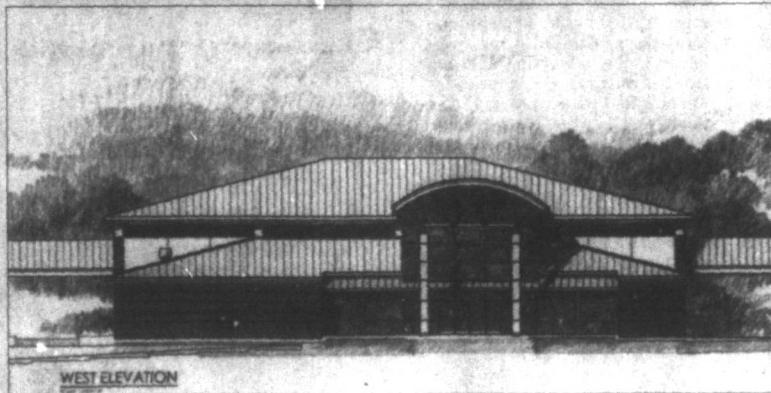
Referring to the MSU football team's number one ranking in the Associated Press weekly poll, Futral said, "The whole nation is talking about what's taking place here, but what's taking place right here (at the new BSU site) may have more eternal value than anything that's being talked about across the nation these days."

Futral said the new building is the shared vision of many who have benefited from the



"The whole nation is talking about what's taking place here, but what's taking place right here (at the new BSU site) may have more eternal value than anything that's being talked about across the nation these days."

Jim Futral, MBCB executive director



see BSU on p. 7

## Baptists unite over Houston subpoenas

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — The City of Houston, Texas, has apparently managed to unite Baptists divided for decades to speak with one voice on religious freedom.

In response to a lawsuit against the city involving the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance, known as HERO among pro-homosexual supporters, attorneys for lesbian Mayor Annise Parker's administration have issued broad subpoenas to four pastors and a ministry leader who oppose the ordinance.

City attorneys have said their intention is to uncover what they term prohibited political activity they allege is ongoing in Houston churches that oppose HERO and the pro-homosexual agenda of the city council and mayor.

The subpoenas have elicited an outcry of opposition, including an Oct. 16 letter from Baptist leaders who span the spectrum of interpretation and belief.

The Baptist leaders asked

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## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### Most valuable

Pick any church, and chances are there's a most valuable member of the team there who often gets taken for granted even though the church couldn't do without her. Is she the faithful, 30-year organist? Certainly that lady is valuable, but she isn't the person. How about the WMU president, who rallies the troops and helps manage so many important programs around the church? Another good guess, but wrong again.

The answer is: The Minister's Wife. As if to make the point any more unshakable, far too many of us are probably thinking right now, "Oops! The minister is married, isn't he? I must have forgotten." Yes, most ministers are married and, to the surprise of a lot of folks, they are married to living, breathing human beings with feelings. Sadly, we tend to overlook that fact.

October may be Pastor Appreciation Month in churches across the Southern Baptist Convention, but as far as I'm concerned it would be most appropriate to rename it Pastor and Wife Appreciation Month.

Where would we be without this faithful tribe known as ministers' wives? Who else would work the nursery when the regular workers have the flu? Who else would anchor the women's section of the choir? Who else would set up the Wednesday evening meal and clean up afterwards, without complaint while the rest of us act as if we're patrons in a restaurant? Who else would be willing to take on all these responsibilities while their husband prays, studies, and prepares to address the congregation each week?

Whether in a church with a single staffer — the pastor — or a church with a dozen or more ministers, these behind-the-scenes worker bees are often the real reason church events go so smoothly.

Ministers' duties often mean postponing or even canceling the relationship time between a husband and wife that so many of the rest of us enjoy. Much-anticipated (and much-needed) vacations are disrupted so the minister can return to town to preach a

funeral. When the normal problems of raising children in our sin-filled culture show up in the minister's family, his wife knows that he is frequently somewhere else ministering to some other parents or counseling someone else's children.

All too often, she bears these personal burdens alone. The same goes for problems at church and the comments of inconsiderate people who are unnecessarily critical of her husband's ministry or harsh about her family's shortcomings which — unlike most of the rest of us — are committed in a fishbowl for all to see. They seldom ask for help and never expect pity.

Liz Curtis Higgs, author of the best-selling book *Bad Girls* of the Bible, has special words of encouragement for women in general and ministers' wives in particular.

"Does it not thrill you that (women) are God's crown of creation?" she asked. "We are the last thing He made, and He said we are very good. Women were not an afterthought; we were uniquely created and uniquely equipped. I love to encourage women to embrace that and run with it."

"(Women) do carry a lot of burdens, and you may think it's your job as a minister's wife to carry people's burdens. We put it in a backpack and tell God, 'I got it,' but wouldn't it just be awesome if you could just lay your burdens down for 40 minutes? Why don't you just throw it at the foot of the cross? He says, 'Take my yoke upon you.' He's going to carry the weight of it; He's just asking you to walk with Him."

As fellow travelers on the Christian journey with them, we must make it a priority to minister to these beautiful sisters every day as well as when they and their families are hurting. They need to know that we are praying for them, and they need to know that we too are willing to lighten their enormous load.

Pray it, and then show by your actions and conduct that you meant it when you prayed it. You can be sure there is a most valuable member of your team out there who won't soon forget it.

## Bible-based hospitality

I wish I could remember the name of the brother who greeted me and my family when we worshipped with Shadow Hills Church in Las Vegas. Many years later, I keenly remember the warm, enthusiastic way he took us under his care to find the worship center, receive bulletins, and meet a few others before the musicians signaled the beginning of the service.

Most surprising was his enthusiastic offer, "Can you join my family for dinner after worship?"

I am certain it was apparent that we were just tourists and a family already practicing the faith, yet he still gave us the best welcome I have ever received from a church. I think of him often. He lived Christian hospitality.

Here's the question: What's become of Christian hospitality? Before you dismiss the question with the usual, "Times have changed," "We're all too busy," "We've become impersonal," or "It's not safe to bring strangers into your home," consider that hospitality is a command from God's Word:

*Romans 12:13b — "... practicing hospitality..."*

*Hebrews 13:2a — "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers..."*

*1 Peter 4:9 — "Be hospitable to one another without complaint."*

The word translated "hospitable" or "hospitality" comes from two words which together mean "love of a guest / stranger." Hospitality is one of the commands we inherited from the Jewish roots of our faith and had very practical applications in the early church — as well as God's church today.

The reasons (excuses?) we cite for not being hospitable might apply in random instances but they do not explain the wholesale neglect of hospitality that often marks contemporary church life. That neglect weakens God's church as we lose the warmth and vitality that follows obeying our Lord and the natural connections believers find in showing love to one another in our homes.

Hospitality imprints an authenticity on our faith that ministers to those outside the Kingdom. Longtime Colorado pastor Alexander Strauch in his book, *The*



**Guest opinion**  
with Bob Carpenter

*Hospitality Commands*, writes, "We need a fresh vision of hospitality's potential for strengthening our churches and for reaching our neighbors and friends with the gospel."

There is great synergy with the two rewards Strauch notes regarding biblical hospitality. Hospitality to fellow believers fosters a depth of love in the church that is inviting to lost people. Hospitality to strangers is a disarming tool for sharing the Gospel. Together, they are powerful in God's purpose to use churches to save sinners.

What to do? Organize a church-wide event in which we open our homes to one another. With a little coordinating, we can foster invitations between believers who do not yet know each other. For a personal approach, set aside one Sunday a month for inviting a family from church or a Sunday morning guest (or one each!) to share dinner with you after worship. Ask your pastor to suggest some new people you might host for a snack or meal. Invite a few folks for an impromptu ice cream sundae after Sunday evening worship.

The late expository preacher Stephen F. Olford once wrote, "No one can ever predict what eternal reward will be awaiting us for Christian hospitality. But even now there is a compensation in store for us. Hospitality is a thrilling adventure and brings wonderful returns."

Remember what Jesus said in a parable about inviting the stranger into your home: "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me" (Matthew 25:40).

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# Islamists plundering, enslaving religious minorities

**DOHUK, Iraq (BP)** — The ISIS terrorist group in Iraq and Syria is forcing religious minority Yazidi men and boys to convert to Islam and enslaving the younger women as jihadis' brides, Human Rights Watch has reported.

"The Islamic State's litany of horrific crimes against the Yazidis in Iraq only keeps growing," Human Rights Watch (HRW) special adviser Fred Abrahams said in a press release, referencing reports from families of the victims. "We heard shocking stories of forced religious conversions, forced mar-

riage, and even sexual assault and slavery — and some of the victims were children."

The precise number of detainees is not known, HRW reported, because fighting is ongoing in Iraq and the vast majority of Yazidis, Christians, and other religious minorities have fled.

ISIS has separated young women and teenage girls from their families and forced some to marry ISIS fighters, HRW reported. The HRW report is based on accounts from dozens of relatives of the detainees, 16 Yazi-

dis who escaped ISIS, and two detained women interviewed by phone. According to accounts, one girl was sold for \$1,000.

The systematic abduction and abuse of Yazidis may amount to crimes against humanity, HRW said. The Yazidi people are Kurds who embrace a hodgepodge of religious practices and beliefs including baptism, and are labeled by Muslims as devil worshippers. ISIS is accused of attempting ethnic genocide aimed at expanding Islamic rule in the region.

In September and October, HRW interviewed 76 displaced Yazidis in the towns of Duhok, Zakho, Erbil, and surrounding areas in Iraqi Kurdistan. They reported ISIS was holding 366 of their family members. Those interviewed provided lists of names, identity cards, photographs, or other details to substantiate their reports of detainees, HRW said. Some of those interviewed estimated the number of prisoners at more than 1,000.

One witness reported seeing ISIS fighters take about 10

women and girls from Badoush Prison near Mosul and from a school in Tal Afar, forcing them to become brides and even giving them gold as a mahr (dowry) from a husband.

The witness, Naveen, said she escaped in early September with her four children ages three-10.

Some of the women taken as brides had to be pulled away with force and ranged in age from 12-20, Naveen said. Days after being captured, the enslaved brides were allowed to return briefly to the prison.



## Background checks a must for church staff, volunteers

**NASHVILLE** — An estimated one in five background checks processed through LifeWay Christian Resources' six-year partnership with backgroundchecks.com reveals a conviction for felony or other serious offenses — and since last year, 50% more churches and organizations have used the service.

Beginning in 2008, approximately 7,700 churches and religious organizations have conducted more than 142,000 background checks by using backgroundchecks.com. Of those checks, nearly half (47%) contained some type of criminal offense, according to Jennie Taylor, a LifeWay coordinator who helps manage the service.

Taylor said the majority of those offenses were minor incidents such as speeding tickets or seatbelt violations, but more than 21% of the checks discovered misdemeanors or more serious crimes including more than 9,000 felonies.

Prior to sending his children and youth to summer camp this year, Tim Hubbard, senior pastor of Seminary Church in Seminary, discovered he needed background checks for all the volunteers who would be serving as chaperones. He turned to LifeWay and backgroundchecks.com.

For Hubbard, the ability to obtain immediate access to run the necessary background

checks proved to be a significant benefit. He said he also appreciated the trust that was built between the parents and church leadership through performing checks on all the chaperones.

Taylor said the relationship between LifeWay and backgroundchecks.com "gives us the opportunity to provide a product that protects children and church assets at a reasonable cost."

The cost, with screenings that start at \$10, has helped eliminate a barrier many churches face with background checks.

After using the service at their church, Barbara Brook, church secretary at Superstition Foothills Church in Gold Canyon, Ariz., said she would recommend it to others "because of its flexibility to meet individual needs and cost effectiveness."

Taylor noted that knowing churches would recommend the service to other churches is great news because of the potential to protect the most vulnerable.

For more information on background checks, visit [LifeWay.com/backgroundchecks](http://LifeWay.com/backgroundchecks) or call (800) 464-2799. For additional resources to help churches avoid the devastating effects of sexual abuse and other moral failures by staff members or volunteers, visit [sbc.net/localchurches/ministryhelp.asp](http://sbc.net/localchurches/ministryhelp.asp) and [sbcfile.net/pdf/ProtectingOurChildren.pdf](http://sbcfile.net/pdf/ProtectingOurChildren.pdf).

## Death sentence against Christian Pakistani upheld

**LAHORE, Pakistan (BP)** — The Lahore High Court in Pakistan on Oct. 16 upheld the death sentence for a Christian mother accused of insulting Islam's prophet Muhammad.

Aasiya Noreen, commonly known as Asia Bibi, is the first woman to be sentenced to death for blasphemy in Pakistan. The mother of five was arrested in June 2009 after Muslim co-workers beat her when she refused to convert to Islam.

Her case began in June 2009 in the harvest fields of Ittan Wali when Bibi's co-workers objected to her touching the container for the water she had fetched, saying that her Christian faith made it impure for them.

They told her to convert to Islam, according to her husband, and her subsequent objections were taken as blasphemy. The co-workers beat her before dragging her to a police station, he said.

Pakistan's blasphemy laws have been routinely misused to settle personal scores through false accusations. Police have found most blasphemy accusations to be false during investigation, but accusers can make innocent victims suffer months in jail with quick and easy registration of such cases.

More than 20 men have been sentenced to death under the blasphemy law, most of them Christians, though none have been executed, human rights groups say.

Naeem Shakir, Bibi's lawyer, will appeal the decision to the Pakistani Supreme Court, he told Morning Star News, but huge backlog at the court could delay the appeal three years.

Bibi's husband Ashiq Masih told Morning Star News that they were hoping for some relief but that the verdict had devastated the family.

"I met (with) Asia in prison a month ago," he said. "She's fine and was hoping to hear good news, but, alas, our ordeal is not over yet."



ASIA BIBI

Justice Anwarul Haq and Justice Shahbaz Ali Rizvi had rejected Bibi's appeal, even though there were glaring contradictions in witness testimonies, Shakir said.

"I pointed out the conflicting accounts of the prosecution witnesses, as each one of them had a different narrative regarding the exact location where the local village council was convened in which Asia had allegedly confessed that she had spoken ill of Islam's prophet and sought forgiveness from the villagers," Shakir said. "There is also discrepancy in the number of people present as each witness gave different figures."

In addition, the court did not take into account that the First Information Report (FIR) against her was registered six days after the alleged incident, "which clearly shows that the case was a pre-meditated conspiracy against the Christian woman," Shakir said.

The complainant in the case, Qari Salem, was not even present in the berry fields where the alleged incident had occurred, Shakir said.

"One of the witnesses, a female co-worker of Asia named Maafia, used to study the Koran from Salem's wife, and we believe

that she is the one who provoked Salem, a prayer leader of the village's local mosque, to lodge a case against Asia as she and her sister Asma had an altercation with Asia in the berry fields over drinking water from the same bowl," Shakir said.

Bibi's appeal had been delayed several times, but Shakir said he had been confident the verdict would be overturned.

"I was shocked when the judges decided to uphold the sessions court decision," he said, adding that the court had said that Bibi's "confession" before villagers was sufficient evidence while ignoring that any such confession might have been coerced by Muslim mob.

The courtroom was packed with clerics and members of Islamist extremist groups who supported the prosecution, and they erupted in celebration upon hearing the two-judge panel's decision to dismiss Bibi's appeal.

David Griffiths, Amnesty International's deputy Asia Pacific director, called the ruling a grave injustice. "Asia Bibi should never have been convicted in the first place — still less, sentenced to death — and the fact that she could pay with her life for an argument is sickening."

There were serious concerns about the fairness of the trial, and her mental and physical health has reportedly deteriorated badly during the years she has spent in almost total isolation on death row. She should be released immediately and the conviction should be quashed."

The ruling is the latest chapter in a long ordeal for Bibi, whose case has focused international attention on how Pakistan's blasphemy laws have become a weapon against religious minorities.

*Based on articles by Baptist Press and Morning Star News, a California-based independent news service focusing on the persecution of Christians worldwide.*

Only months ago very few people outside the world of medicine had ever heard of Ebola, may not have been able to pronounce it, and weren't really concerned about it, but this incredible, deadly disease was across the ocean killing thousands of people and frightening millions to the verge of panic. When some Americans who were there trying to help were affected by this disease and came home, we began to pay attention. Then when we began to hear of people dying as a first Ebola patient in America succumbed to death we got concerned. In short order, some of the people who were trying to help the patient who had Ebola became infected and the level of concern became even greater. Now, the level of conversation and the demand for action increases almost hourly. "Stop people from coming to our country with this disease." "Quarantine the people who have it so that no one else will get it." But how do you discover who has it without people being involved in the testing and in so doing may subject themselves to become infected?

We who have the finest medical procedures in the world listen to some of our brightest explain that we are limited in fully understanding what this is going to do in our population. We keep hearing that we can contain it and it will never be here like it was in Africa. Then we hear of another person who may be infected and another. This is certainly not an attack on any of our medical profession, but it is to say that neither they nor we or all of us together have all the answers about life and death. While we think about, talk about and even are concerned about the spread of Ebola around the world, we have become desensitized to seeing the original pattern of Ebola identified in scripture as sin.

You see, like Ebola, sin is a destructive killer. When God made Adam and Eve and placed them in a perfect environment in the garden, He instructed them that everything there was theirs to enjoy and behold. "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Gen. 2:17). While

## SIN – The Original Ebola

the temptation grew and the thoughts of their mind were warped as they looked and wanted to take of that tree, Satan came alongside with his lies and said you will not die; you'll just be as smart as God, and Eve and Adam took of the tree.

Some people look at that moment in time and say, "Well, they didn't die," but oh, if you will look again you will see death as it begins to take hold of one part and then another and another of their life. Their relationship with God was broken and death occurred. Their relationship with each other was changed and death was affecting their marriage. The thoughts that flowed through their minds became warped and they began to think in terms of covering up their deeds, rationalizing their actions, staying away from God and the scripture's presentation of sin's infestation, hurt and fear, grief and death begin to be seen all around where this self-inflicted disease had arrived. Soon Adam and Eve would be in a mess, and out of the garden and in an unfriendly world that would keep on working against them because of their sin.

**Like Ebola, sin is contagious, and the problem with Ebola is that you can be infected with it, not know it, and no one else may detect it.** Then by the time the fever and the vomiting and the other expressions of this disease show up, you've already been around other

people who did not know the severity of what you were carrying, nor did you. Sin has a way of presenting itself that is okay and nice and it's just a part of our culture, our world. Only to find out in short order that this deadly disease is affecting you far deeper than you ever thought, is infecting everyone around you beyond what you thought, and whether it be someone at work or someone you married or someone who was born into your family, you're disobedience toward God and the outbreak of your sin is going to touch their life. I have heard so many people say that, "What I do is my business, where I go, what I drink, the drugs I take, the attitude I have is nobody else's concern or business but mine." In our freedom-loving world, it sounds good, but wrong actions and sinful works always have consequences that affect the individual and infect people around you.

You're more than welcome to disagree with me, and you can argue from the theological standpoint, or from the psychological standpoint and it's going to come out the same, that sin has an incredible, deadly contagious component about it. What does the future hold for Ebola? As of yet, I have not heard one person boldly step forward and say, "Here's what we can expect." All we know is that it has spread and that it is a killer and at one time there were those who were saying that anyone who got infected died. While the numbers are

minute, that has changed and some people have gotten well after having Ebola.

It is a wonderful joyful thing in the midst of all the kind of calamity that sin brings in our world that we, who know the living Lord Jesus Christ, have sin's answer. It would kill, ravish and destroy. The Bible so clearly says the wages of sin is death. Just live in sin and wait for payday and death in every way and every place will happen. But when we in our churches and across the land announce the rest of that verse, it is indeed the good news from God, the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, "The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). Even now scientists are working at as fast and as feverish a pace they can go to find a vaccine that will neutralize and negate the spread of Ebola. As of yet, that has not happened. If it did, can you imagine the joy that would spread all across our land, across the ocean, and across the great continent of Africa where it has been destroying tens of thousands of people – that Ebola has been conquered.

Well, my friends, that is what we sing about, for Jesus has given us the victory over sin. That is what we preach about. That is why we give. That is why we send missionaries to the ends of the earth and to the doorstep of every community, because Christ does make a difference. He saves and he gives life abundantly now, but he gives life eternal. Thanks be to God! Regardless of how ravaging the infection of sin may be in your life, Jesus can save. Regardless of how you have ignored him and rejected his call to your heart, Jesus can save. Regardless of how sick you may be or self-confident you may be, Jesus saves. Trust him now. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:11-12). Trust Him right now.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

## Revivals & Homecomings



► **Union Church, Tylertown:** 199th homecoming, Oct. 26; service, 10 a.m., followed by potluck lunch; Michael Knippers, speaker; Doug Lee, Union Quartet, and Howard and Marvin White, music.

► **Liberty Church, Nettleton:** Homecoming, Oct. 26; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and singing featuring the Down's Family; Clinton Worthey, speaker; Casey Jones, pastor.

► **New Hope Church, Sumrall:** 181st anniversary, Oct. 26; services, 11 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. with lunch served; Valtin Douglas, speaker; Jeffrey Coulter, music.

► **Zion Hill Church, Wesson:** 131st homecoming, Oct. 26; services, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch; Joe Haire and Malcom Massey, speakers.

► **Montgomery Church, Summit:** Homecoming and new sanctuary dedication, Oct. 26; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Larry Russell, pastor.

**TOOMSOOBA CHURCH, LAUDERDALE ASSOCIATION,** recently celebrated 130 years of ministry. Individuals leading in worship included Ben James, David Caves, and Donnie Cobb.

► **Salem Church, Tylertown:** Homecoming, Oct. 26; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Johnnie Sykes, speaker; Rob Schepers, music.

► **First Church, Potts Camp:** Homecoming and old-fashioned day, Oct. 26; services, 9:45 a.m., followed by buffet meal; Herbert Luther, speaker; local talent, music; Paul Hicks, pastor; Larry Tate, music director.

► **Echu Church, Echu:** 110th anniversary, Oct. 26; worship, 10 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon singing; Ronnie Hatfield, speaker.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# House Tops.

October 23, 2014

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

## Health Works



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## WORKSHOP FOR PART-TIME AND VOLUNTEER MINISTERS/WORKERS

Sponsored by the Discipleship/Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

**What is it?** These workshops will provide youth ministry training and an opportunity to discuss youth ministry as it relates to the smaller churches and churches that don't employ a full-time paid youth minister. A light supper will also be served.

**Who should attend?** Anyone who serves his/her church in the area of youth ministry. This could be youth committee members, youth Sunday School teachers, pastors, part-time/bi-vocational youth ministers, anyone who has a heart to minister to teenagers in his/her church.

**Who will lead it?** Gary Permenter of Gary Permenter Ministries ([garypermenter.org](http://garypermenter.org)) will be the facilitator for this workshop.

**What does it cost?** Nothing except a few hours of your time.

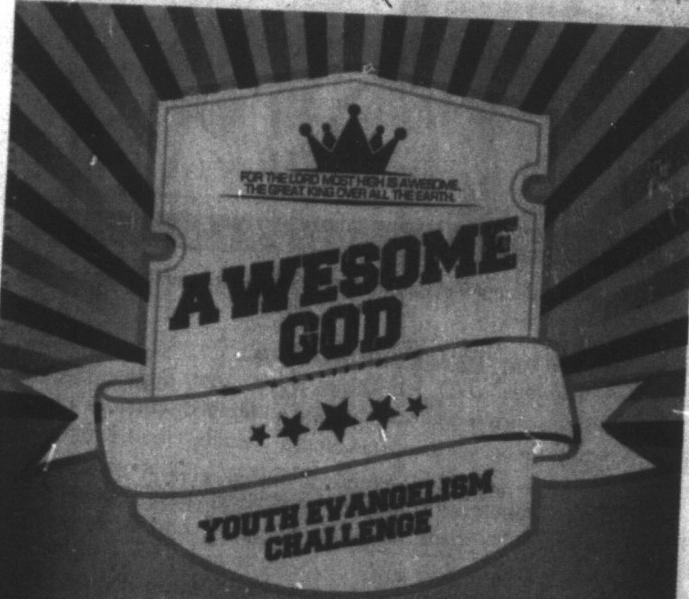
**Where are these being held?** See the list below for locations and times. More locations will be announced later in the fall for 2015.

**Do I have to register ahead of time?** It would help us to know if you're coming but you can still come even if you don't register. Register by e-mailing Rene Edwards at [redwards@mmbcb.org](mailto:redwards@mmbcb.org) or call her at 1-800-748-1651. Please let her know your name, your church, and which location you'll be attending.

#### LOCATIONS

Thursday, October 23, 2014	6 - 8:45 p.m.	First Baptist Church, Vardaman, MS
Monday, November 17, 2014	6 - 8:45 p.m.	First Baptist Church, Marks, MS
Thursday, November 20, 2014	6 - 8:45 p.m.	Lowrey Memorial Baptist Church, Blue Mtn., MS

For more information contact the Discipleship/Family Ministry Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530 800-748-1651, ext. 283, or 601-292-3283.



**DECEMBER 29-30**

**MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE**

REGISTRATION BEGINS MONDAY, DEC. 29 AT 1:30 P.M.

**SPEAKER**  
DANNY LANIER

**SPEAKER**  
ED NEVTON

**ILLUSIONIST**  
DREW WORSHAM

**WORSHIP**  
CASSIDY CRENSHAW  
BAND

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE  
EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT  
OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD  
AT 800-748-1651, EXT. 278, OR 601-968-3800

**Christian Action**  
COMMISSION

CELEBRATING **50** YEARS OF  
MINISTRY TO MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2014**

Mississippi Baptist Convention  
First Baptist Church, Jackson, MS

10:35 a.m., Sanctuary

Special report by Dr. Jimmy Porter,  
Executive Director/Treasurer  
"Navigating the World"

*Thank you for your continued support  
through the Cooperative Program.*

For more information contact the  
Christian Action Commission

601-292-3329

Mississippi Council on  
Bivocational/Small Church  
Ministries Meeting



Baptist Building Sky Room  
3 - 4:45 p.m.  
October 27, 2014

**FREE**

For Bivocational/Small Church ministers and their wives.  
Afterwards, meal will be served at FBC, Jackson, FH West at 4:45  
p.m. Please e-mail [cwtaylor@mcb.org](mailto:cwtaylor@mcb.org) or call P/LD office, 601-292-  
3305, to reserve your place to better serve you.

**AMD/SEMINARY EXTENSION  
DIRECTORS BREAKFAST**

Baptist Building Chapel

7-8 a.m.

October 28, 2014

**FREE**

AMDs and Seminary Extension Directors are invited to this  
breakfast. Registration is encouraged. Please contact the Pastor/  
Leadership Development Dept. of the MBCB,  
[cwtaylor@mcb.org](mailto:cwtaylor@mcb.org) or call 601-292-3305.



March 20-21, 2015 | Broadmoor Baptist Church, Madison, Mississippi

#### Awards Competition

- Entries in the Awards Competition must have been produced or aired between January 1, 2014 – January 1, 2015
- Award Entry Deadline is January 23, 2015
- Entry form and registration is online

#### Banquet and Workshop

- Banquet and Workshop Registration Deadline is March 6, 2015
- Registration for all activities (Banquet and Workshop) is: \$35 per person
- Friday Awards Banquet only or Saturday Workshop only is \$25 per person

**WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION COMING TO YOUR MAILBOX SOON!**  
[www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org)

Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MSBaptists>

Contact Communication Services of the MBCB for more information at 800-748-1651, ext. 378, or [jchen@mbcb.org](mailto:jchen@mbcb.org)

They call it Dignity.  
We call it a Mission.  
help God's retired servants

## MISSION:DIGNITY

They call it Dignity. We call it Mission. Currently 2500 retired Southern Baptist ministers or their widows receive financial assistance each month. Often, the small monthly income makes the difference in buying food, paying the electric bill or getting needed medical medication.

You, your Sunday School class or your church can be Christ's arms extended in making life better for God's retired servants – providing well-deserved dignity and security in their declining years. Contact [www.Mission:DignitySBC.org](http://www.Mission:DignitySBC.org)

**Annuity Department**  
of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
Robin Nichols, 601-292-3226, [rnikols@mbcb.org](mailto:rnikols@mbcb.org)

## Is Your Bible Study for Preschoolers and Children Healthy?

Hosted and lead by Mississippi Sunday School Leaders along with a panel of local ministry leaders AND

November 13: Clara Mae Van Brink, Preschool Ministry Speaker, Canton, Georgia

Join with us at no cost from wherever you are on your computer/laptop, phone, tablet, iPod.

Connect with us on November 13 at  
[www.mbc.org/ssleadertraining](http://www.mbc.org/ssleadertraining)

A Ministry of the Cooperative Program  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Sunday School Department, P O Box 530, Jackson MS 39205  
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800, ext 291



The Mississippi Baptist Young Musicians Honor Choir Weekend  
April 11-12, 2015 - Cleary Baptist Church, Florence MS  
Guest Choral Conductor: Susan Messer

No Audition Fee - Submit audition form & video audition beginning August 1, 2014  
Upon acceptance Choir Member cost for weekend is \$70 (covers member meals, snacks, music, listening CD, Weekend DVD, concert polo shirt)

For 2015 audition form: <http://www.mbc.org>  
Contact: Wyndy South, Church Music Department, 601-292-3272 locally or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 272 statewide. E-mail: [wsouth@mbcb.org](mailto:wsouth@mbcb.org)

## Ministers' Wives Conference

OCTOBER 27, 2014 | FBC JACKSON, 5TH FLOOR

**Guest Speaker: Trudy Cathy White**  
1:30 p.m. Registration  
FBC, Jackson – 5th Floor Main Building

Preregistration is encouraged so that we may better prepare.  
For more information contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Dept. at the MBCB:  
E-mail: [cwhite@mbcb.org](mailto:cwhite@mbcb.org)  
Fax: 601.714.7426 • Phone: 800.748.1651, ext. 305; 601.292.3305

Pray this day for...

October 24 - November 13, 2014

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

Pray for **David & Gloria Glaze**, missionaries ministering to Deaf Peoples through media, construction & medical promotion.

Pray for **Clarence Frank Harrison & Phoebe**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan Peoples.

Pray for **Kenneth & Kennethly Mattock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination, outreach & evangelism.

Pray for **Thomas & Bonnie Meeson**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination, outreach & evangelism.

Pray for **Earl & Ramona Hewitt**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through medicine, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for **Aaron & Tiffany Epp**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/temple outreach & evangelism.

Pray for **Robert & Margaret Fosterberry**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church/temple outreach & evangelism.

Pray for **Janey Holoway**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting & pastoralism.

Pray for **Ronald & Beverly Holmes**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & pastoralism.

Pray for **Patricia Hollingshead**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples.

Pray for **David & Claudia Hood**, missionaries ministering to North African & Middle Eastern Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for **Tony & Denita Immon**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for **Raymond & Cynthia Hodges**, missionaries ministering to Deaf Peoples through sports evangelism, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for **Jeffrey & Lissa Holzman**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for **John & Melinda Kyte**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for **Timothy & Rebecca Lichety**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through pastoral care, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for **Bob & Amy Little**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples.

Pray for **Asbury & Jeannie Martin**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for **Robert & Janice Mooney**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach & evangelism.

The individuals listed in the Heavens Above prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

## 2015 AREA & STATE KEYBOARD FESTIVALS

**Thursday, January 29, 2015 — 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

FBC, 300 N. Church St, Tupelo, 38804

FBC, 202 7th St. N, Columbus, 39703

Tylertown BC, 409 Tyler Ave, Tylertown, 39667

FBC, 431 N. State St, Jackson, 39201

Poplar Springs Dr. BC, 4032 Poplar Springs Dr, Meridian, 39305

Petal-Harvey BC, 600 South Main St, Petal, 39465

FBC, 902 Live Oak Ave, Pascagoula, 39567

FBC, 607 W. 5th St, Laurel, 39442

**Friday, January 30, 2015 — 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

Longview Heights BC, 4501 Goodman Rd, Olive Branch, 38654

**Saturday, January 31, 2015 — 9:30 a.m. - noon**

FBC, 450 Faith Dr, Grenada, 38901

North Greenwood BC, 615 Grand Blvd., Greenwood, 38930

For more information contact the Church Music Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 267, or 601-292-3267

**HOUSE TOPS**

Celebrating 50 YEARS  
1964 - 2014  
**Christian Action**  
COMMISSION  
Communicating Biblical Truth  
on Moral, Social and Ethical Issues:

- Marriage and Family
- Substance Abuse
- Pornography
- Racial Reconciliation
- Christian Citizenship
- Church and State

Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission  
601-292-3329  
ChristianAction.com



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Department of the MBCB  
800-748-1651, ext. 347

## BIBLIOCRYPTER

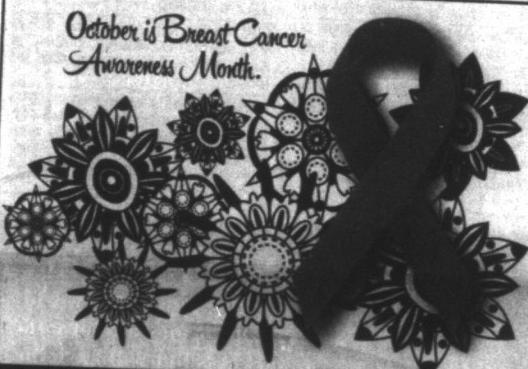
NYFLSKFL RS NYRDL LDLVI YTDPLF,  
 SLX YRV; RS YL NYRFAN, PRGL YRV  
 XFRDW: SKF RD AK XKRD P NYKT AYQBN  
 YLQM JKQBA KS SRFL KD YRA YLQX.  
 FKVQDA NCLBGL: NCLDNI

**Clue: CLUE: P = G**

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: *Acts 11:16*

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



The best protection is early detection.

Schedule Your Mammogram Today

Booneville 662.720.5030

DeSoto

662.772.2100

Golden Triangle 662.244.2979

North Mississippi 662.513.1699

Union County 662.538.2133

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and Baptist wants to remind all women that early detection is the best protection. When breast cancer is found early and confined to the breast, the 5-year relative survival rate today is 99 percent.

Get a clinical exam by a health care professional every three years between the ages of 20 and 40. After 40, or if you have certain high-risk factors, schedule an annual mammogram. If not for yourself, then for the ones who depend on you.

Learn more by visiting [baptistcancercenter.com](http://baptistcancercenter.com).

 **BAPTIST**

Memorial Hospitals of Mississippi  
 BONNEVILLE, COLUMBUS, NEWbern,  
 OXFORD, SOUTHaven

Get Better.

## Just for the Record



**VAIDEN CHURCH, VAIDEN**, congratulated James Cox as a result of the church reaching its Margaret Lackey State Missions goal of over \$6600. Cox was selected to wear the commemorative hat. Shown are Cox and pastor Dean Stewart.



**MEN FROM FIRST CHURCH, EUPORA**, are shown working at the Webster County Association office to construct a new building that will house the disaster relief trailer.

### In other Church News:

► **New Henleyfield Church, Carriere**, will host a fall festival Oct. 25, 4 - 6 p.m., followed by a hayride.

► **First Church, Louisville**, will host a church safety seminar Oct. 25, 8 a.m. - noon. It is designed to help churches and faith-based property to be prepared for violence in places of worship. For more info, visit [www.mississippichurchsafety.com](http://www.mississippichurchsafety.com) or call (662)773-3366. A movie, *Faith Under Fire*, will be shown Oct. 24 at the church, 7 p.m.

► **Bethel Church, Bogue Chitto**, will sponsor a senior adult day Oct. 26. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by catered lunch. Mike Moak, speaker.

► **Calvary Church, Columbia**, will honor Reuben McDowell for 20 years of service as minister of music Oct. 26. Worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch. Tim Russell, guest speaker; Millard Moak, pastor.

► **Liberty Hill Church, Pope**, is hosting a women's conference, *Everybody Has a Song*, Oct. 25, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Speakers include Jamie Womack, Linda Oliver, Derrick Simmons, and Team Challenge. Light breakfast and lunch provided. Tickets, \$20; call (601)934-4106 or (662)934-0419.

► **The New Orleans Seminary** Alumni Reunion will be Oct. 28 at First Church, Jackson, during lunch. Cost, \$10, payable at the door. Casual dress. Rhonda Kelley, guest. Call (601)656-1820 or email [jacksong5678@yahoo.com](mailto:jacksong5678@yahoo.com) for reservations and information. Mississippi alumni officers are Louis Zinc, Glenn A. Jackson, and Macon Phillips.

► **Silver Creek Church, McComb**, will have a trunk or treat Oct. 25, 5 p.m. Hamburgers and hot dogs served at 6 p.m.



**BRANCH CHURCH, MORTON**, held a deacon ordination service for Mark Measels Oct. 5. Shown are interim pastor Gordon Sansing, Measels, and Farrell Madison.



**CALVARY CHURCH, GREENWOOD**, recently ordained Alton Brewer. Shown are Ruth Brewer, Brewer, and pastor Wayne Kimbrough.



**WADE CHURCH, WADE**, ordained Randall Cobb and Marc Beech as deacons Oct. 12. Shown are Cobb, Amy Cobb, Beech, and Della Beech.

## UNITE

cont. from p. 1

Parker and the city "to acknowledge that the issuing of these subpoenas is improper and unwarranted, in order to ensure that such will not happen again. Whatever a church or synagogue or mosque or any other religious body believes about marriage or sexuality, the preaching and teaching of those bodies should be outside the scope of government intimidation or oversight."

"This is about more than 'walking back' a bad public relations move," the signers wrote in the letter. "This is about something that is fundamental to basic, self-evident rights that are endowed not by government but by nature and nature's God."

The signers admitted they "disagree on many things" and "represent a broad coalition of Baptists from across the political and theological spectrum," adding they "have a long history of support for religious liberty and separation of church and state. On that, we stand united." Signing the letter were:

■ Russell D. Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville. Moore is a native of Biloxi.

■ Brent Walker, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Freedom in Washington, D.C.

■ Frank Page, president of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville.

■ Suzi Paynter, executive coordinator of the Cooperative

"We have disagreements with one another on important matters, but we stand together for our Baptist heritage of religious liberty and separation of church and state. I hope that Mayor Parker, and any other politician who wishes to violate these principles, will reconsider."

Russell D. Moore  
president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission



Executive Baptist Fellowship in Decatur, Ga.

■ Jim Richards, executive director of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC) in Grapevine, Texas.

■ David Hardage, executive director of the Baptist General Convention (BGCT) of Texas in Dallas, Texas.

■ Jimmy Pritchard, SBTC president and senior pastor at First Church of Forney, Texas.

■ Jeff Johnson, BGCT president and senior pastor at First Church of Commerce, Texas. Johnson is a native of Yazoo City.

■ Houston Baptist University President Robert Sloan in Houston, Texas.

■ Gus Reyes, director of the BGCT Christian Life Commission in Dallas.

"We have disagreements with one another on important matters, but we stand together for our Baptist heritage of religious liberty and separation of church and state," said Moore, who coordinated production of the letter along with Walker. "I hope that Mayor Parker, and any

other politician who wishes to violate these principles, will reconsider."

Baptists have been reminding politicians of the importance of soul freedom for hundreds of years, whether from English jail cells or colonial courtrooms or revolutionary-era rallies. We stand with our forebears, and we won't back down."

The subpoenas seek a wide range of communications by the pastors and ministry leader. They include not only emails and text messages but also, "All speeches, presentations, or sermons related to HERO, the Petition [for a referendum to overturn the ordinance], Mayor Annise Parker, homosexuality, or gender identity prepared by, delivered by, revised by, or approved by you or in your possession."

The city threatened contempt of court charges with the possibility of fines and/or jail time if the pastors do not comply. Most of the pastors who were subpoenaed have already announced they will not comply.

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

## Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

**Preferred method:** news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

## MS POSITIONS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BUDDE, MS, IS SEEKING A FULL TIME SENIOR PASTOR. Please send resumes to budebaptistchurch@yahoo.com.

MINISTER OF MUSIC, PART-TIME POSITION. Send resume to: First Baptist Church, Music Committee, P.O. Box 458, Potts Camp, Ms 38659

FBC SHARON IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR TWO BI-VOCATIONAL

MINISTERS OF MUSIC (one for contemporary service and one for traditional service). Please

send resume to FBC Sharon, 4375 Sharon Road, Laurel, MS 39443 or scott@fbsharon.com. Attn: Gina for traditional; Attn: Chuck for contemporary.

MILITARY BAPTIST CHURCH IN SUMMALL, MS IS LOOKING FOR A PART TIME MUSIC MINISTER. Please send resumes to: 1520 Old Road, Sunnall, MS 39482. Direct questions to militarybaptist@yahoo.com

PART TIME: YOUTH/CHILDREN'S LEADER OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, MENDENHALL, MS 39114. Part Time. Youth/Children's leader individual or Couple; Salary is Negotiable; Contact: bgblair05@gmail.com

FAIRFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH IN MOSELLE, MS IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER. Send resume to 942 Moselle Seminary Rd, Moselle, Ms 39459 or email to fairfield@bayspringtel.net

## CLASSIFIEDS

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FOLEY, ALABAMA IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR THE FULL-TIME POSITION OF MINISTER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. Please email resumes to scollins@fbcofoley.com.

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SEBRENS SIDING www.sebrensomeside.com. Christian owned Don & Rita Sebren. 601-992-2092. All home improvements, siding, energy efficient windows, metal & shingle roofs, screen & sunrooms, patio covers, decks, room additions, kitchen & bath upgrades.

## Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## Only Jesus Transforms • Hebrews 8:1-13

### The New Covenant Needed (1-6)

Christ is seated at the right hand of God the Father, Ancient of Days (Dan 7:9-10), from this position he mediates for us (1 Tim 2:5-6). Christ himself is our minister, as he has passed through the heavens, to the holy places (2 Cor. 12:2) in the true tent that God has made without hands. Christ is there... right now...at this very moment I'm writing and you are reading (Eph. 3:10). 3 For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices...; thus it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. Christ made an offering of himself once and for all, never to be offered again or repeatedly. He was born once of a virgin and died once on Calvary's cross. He was once raised from the dead and ascended once to heaven...and now and for all eternity will mediate our salvation! 4 Now if he were on earth..."It follows, therefore, that his priesthood belongs to a sphere that is not earthly...Thus from the very beginning the gaze of the believer has been fixed not on earthly shadow, but on the heavenly reality; for this life is the time of pilgrimage, not rest, and this present world, prior to the renewal of all things, is the realm of all that is transitory, and is thus no fit sphere for him who is our High Priest forever." (Hebrews,

Hughes, 292) 5 They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things... "Elevated to this position of eminence, our ever living High Priest is the minister in that sanctuary which is the true tent, in contrast to the perishable tent from the wilderness wanderings, the true tent is the heavenly reality into which the ascended Lord has entered, the genuine sanctuary, the imperishable holy of holies."

(Hebrews, Hughes, 282) As a set of blueprints contains the shadow / representation of the actual structure, so the Tabernacle was a "shadow" of the heavenly dwelling. "His high priestly work of atonement has activated the "better promises" of the new covenant - promises fulfilled in the cleansing of our consciences from the deadly contagion of sin, in the planting of the love of God and his will in our hearts, and in the restoration of that intimate fellowship with our Creator

which the curse we brought on ourselves and destroyed." (Hebrews, Hughes, 297)

### The New Covenant Promised (7-9)

- 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second... Here Hebrews inserts Jeremiah 31:21-24 as prophetic evidence for his thesis. If the first covenant had been faultless, then why would God have moved

Jeremiah to make a new covenant promise? Jeremiah writes of a day when there will be a "new covenant" made with

mankind. (Hebrews, Hughes, 297-98)

**The New Covenant Described (10-13)** - 10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord... This new covenant would move the law from dwelling on stone tablets to dwelling within human heart and soul. No longer would there be a separate Levitical priesthood, now all that call upon Him would be His people, from the least to the greatest, 1 Peter 2:9, "9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Verse 13 seems to indicate that the author senses, in light of Christ's prediction of the temple's destruction (Mark 13:2), that this old order "will shortly disappear." Delitzsch comments, "the temple service, though to continue it may be a few years longer in outward splendor, is only a bed of state on which a lifeless corpse is lying." (Hebrews, Hughes, 302)

We needed a new covenant of grace and truth to transform us and we have it in Jesus Christ, the eternal High Priest!

Hazzard is pastor of Woodland Church, Columbus.



Explore the Bible  
with Shelby Hazzard

## Overcoming Temptation • Genesis 39: 3-12

Four-year-old Cody smelled the cake baking, and watched his mother frost it when it cooled. She had let her young son help measure the ingredients and pour the batter into the pan, telling him he could go with her to take it to a friend who had a new baby. Carefully placing a lid on the confectionary delight, Cody's mom went to call the family to schedule a time to drop it off.

Temptation swept over the young boy. The cake smelled so good! Although he knew he shouldn't, he decided to have just a taste of the icing, and, standing on a chair, he carefully lifted the lid. Suddenly, the chair slipped out from under him, and he tried to catch himself. Both he and the cake hit the floor. At a young age, Cody learned a lesson about what can happen when one yields to temptation.

This childhood mishap produced only a minor inconvenience. However, we all know of instances when yielding to the devil's enticement has produced long-term, disastrous consequences. Perhaps we've even caused such ourselves by choosing to do something we knew was wrong. Yes, temptation rears its ugly head through countless avenues; this week, we'll see one Joseph faced.

Our previous lesson concluded with a brief introduction to this new phase of Jo-

seph's life, as he became a servant in the household of Potiphar, a high-ranking Egyptian official. Genesis 39:2 tells us the Lord was with Joseph, who could have still been in his late teens at this time (see Gen. 37:2). God's presence, power and guidance gave the young Hebrew "success in everything he did" (vs. 3 NIV), and his master took note of this. With the utmost confidence, Po-

tiphar gave the competent young man charge over his household, and all he owned (vs. 4). The result? "The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had."

Verse 6 describes Joseph as "well-built and handsome". Potiphar's wife noticed these attributes, and sexual desire began to well up inside her. "Come to bed with me", she said to the young servant. The manner of the language could mean it wasn't just a request; it was an order. Joseph had the right response: he refused. Declaring the trust his master had in him, he also relat-

ed that to do as she asked would be a "sin against God" (vs. 9).

Temptation has a way of relentlessly presenting itself to us, does it not? As we think of areas where we're weak, we realize it is an unending battle. Joseph faced the same thing - Potiphar's wife enticed him "day after day" (vs 10), but he steadfastly stayed in his course. Continuing to refuse her ad-

vances, he made a conscious effort to even avoid being around her.

One day, Joseph's duties called him into the house.

However, there were no servants inside. The woman who had proved to be his nemesis decided to take full advantage of this situation. Grabbing his cloak, she again sought to lure him into a sinful rendezvous (vs 22). Joseph wrenched away, running out of the house, leaving the woman holding a garment she'd scornfully used, leading to an undesirable turn of events.

What can we learn from this lesson?

First, that even when we try to do right, temptation still stalks us. And sometimes resisting makes life uncomfortable instead of better. But in such instances, God is pleased, and has a reward down the road. 1 Peter 2:20 (NRSV) tells us, "If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval."

It's also evident that, to overcome temptation, there are times when we must stand strong, and other times when we'd best do what Joseph did: run. Get as far away from the situation as possible! Ephesians 6:11 (NIV) calls saints to equip themselves with "the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." 2 Timothy 2:22 (LB) says, "Run from anything that gives you the evil thoughts that young men often have, but stay close to anything that makes you want to do right."

In Joseph's situation, he was actually following both of these scriptural admonitions. He had stood strong, but in the end, he knew it was time to take flight. Consider temptations you face. Which should you stand up to? From which should you run?

Maniscalco is a member of Lemoyne Boulevard Church in Biloxi.

## Bible Studies for Life

with Ann Maniscalco



## BSU

cont. from p. 1

BSU ministry over the decades. "All across our state there are people who can't be here today, but who are participating through their gifts. They care about what God is doing on this campus and what He's doing at the BSU."

Joining Keenum and Futral on the speaker's platform were Michael Ball, MSU BSU director, and Amy Tuck, MSU vice-president for campus services and former Mississippi Lt. Governor.

"Today is not just a historic

day, but it's a happy day as we celebrate the vision and sacrifice of many people," Ball said. "We recognize the hand of God in this event, and we desire for this building to be set apart and to be used for His purposes."

"What an honor it is to be with you today to help celebrate the beginning of a new chapter for Mississippi State University's Baptist Student Union," Tuck said.

Participating in the groundbreaking were (see photo, from left) June Scoggins, MSU BSU associate director; Weaver McCracken, MBCB collegiate ministry director; Jedd Moak, MSU

BSU president and current state BSU president; Michael Ball, MSU BSU director; Jim Futral, MBCB executive director; Mark Keenum, MSU president; Amy Tuck, MSU vice-president for campus services; Barri Shirley, MBCB associate executive director for business services; Larry Singleton, lead architect; and David Michel, MBCB associate executive director for mission strategy.

After the groundbreaking, Ball said, "The BSU groundbreaking began a new chapter on the campus at MSU. This new facility will be a lighthouse for future generations of Bulldogs. I appreciate the

strong support of MBCB, Mississippi churches, and faithful alumni and friends who have helped make this day possible."

"The need for a bright, shining witness for Christ has never been more important than now," Futral said after the groundbreaking. "We're so thankful for those who have gone before and on their strong shoulders we stand today, ready to impact the generations to come for our Lord."

The site for the new BSU is a short distance southwest of the current BSU building, which is located at 282 E. Lee Blvd. The new BSU will stand where Hamlin

Hall, a former residence hall torn down in 2004, was located. At over 15,000 square feet, the new BSU will be one of the largest such facilities in the Southern Baptist Convention.

For more information on the MSU BSU project, contact Michael Ball, MSU BSU director, at P.O. Drawer BU, Mississippi State, MS 39762. Telephone: (662) 323-5761. E-mail: michael@msubsu.com. Web site: msubsu.com.

The MSU Office of Public Affairs news bureau contributed to this article.

## Just for the Record



**MARS HILL CHURCH, SUMMIT**, honored Dianne Carruth, pianist, and Margaret Adams, organist, Oct. 5 on their 40th anniversary as church instrumentalists. The church presented them with gifts, cards, and flowers. They also received certificates from the Mississippi Baptist Church Music Department. Shown are minister of music Clay Campbell, Carruth, Adams, and pastor Dan Graddy.

**CHRIST CHURCH, GREENWOOD**, honored their pastor and wife, Charlie And Dianna Jones, with a money tree and fellowship lunch Oct. 12.



**PARKWAY CHURCH, PAS-CAGOULA**, had six students make professions of faith during and after their September revival. All were baptized Oct. 5. Shown, back, are Spencer Krebs, Sheldon Holley, pastor Martin Britt, Clay Chandler, and Ethan Skinner. Front, Dilan Skinner and Daelin Skinner.

**OAKDALE CHURCH, BRANDON**, ordained three to the deacon ministry Oct. 10. Shown are David Underwood and his wife Mary Lynne; Steve Hull with his wife Hattie; Michael Coulter and his wife Christie; and pastor Rick Henson.



The advertisement features two versions of the book 'LIFE ON MISSION'. The left version is dark with white text, and the right version is white with black text. Both books have the title 'LIFE ON MISSION' prominently displayed. The right book also includes the subtitle 'Joining the Everyday Mission of God' and the foreword 'Foreword by DAVID PLATT'. The background of the ad shows a large crowd of people.

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